

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 27, 2007

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 724**

---

**Introduced by Senator Kuehl**

February 23, 2007

---

An act to amend Section 1701.5 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 724, as amended, Kuehl. Public Utilities Commission: ratesetting and quasi-legislative cases.

Under the Public Utilities Act, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities and is authorized to conduct investigations and conduct proceedings. The act authorizes the commission to determine whether a proceeding requires a hearing, and if so, to determine whether the matter requires a quasi-legislative, adjudication, or ratesetting hearing. The act requires the commission, with certain exceptions, to resolve issues raised in a specified scoping memo within 18 months of the date on which the scoping memo is issued.

This bill would ~~make technical, nonsubstantive changes to the provision requiring the resolution of the issues raised in the scoping memo~~ *require the commission, in a ratesetting or quasi-legislative case involving a light rail grade crossing, to resolve issues raised in the scoping memo within 9 months of the date of the memo, unless the commission makes a written determination that the deadline cannot be met, including findings as to the reason, and issues an order extending the deadline.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 1701.5 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:

1701.5. (a) Except as specified in ~~subdivision (b)~~ subdivisions (b) and (c), in a ratesetting or quasi-legislative case, the commission shall resolve the issues raised in the scoping memo within 18 months of the date the scoping memo is issued, unless the commission makes a written determination that the deadline cannot be met, including findings as to the reason, and issues an order extending the deadline. No single order may extend the deadline for more than 60 days.

(b) Notwithstanding ~~subdivision (a)~~ subdivisions (a) and (c), the commission may specify in a scoping memo a resolution date later than 18 months from the date the scoping memo is issued, if that scoping memo includes specific reasons for the necessity of a later date and the commissioner that is assigned to the case approves the date.

(c) *Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), in a ratesetting or quasi-legislative case involving a light rail grade crossing, the commission shall resolve the issues raised in the scoping memo within nine months of the date the scoping memo is issued, unless the commission makes a written determination that the deadline cannot be met, including findings as to the reason, and issues an order extending the deadline. No single order may extend the deadline for more than 60 days.*